

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 10204 140818Z

22/47

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /049 W

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O 121335Z SEP 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0899

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10204

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ET

SUBJECT: REVOLUTION DAY

REF: ADDIS ABABA 10145 (NOTAL)

1. CEREMONIE MARKING SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF ETHIOPIA'S
REVOLUTION UNFOLDED SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT INCIDENT FOR FOUR AND
ONE HALF HOURS BEGINNING 0930 THIS MORNING. AS PREDICTED,
SECURITY WAS HEAVY AND WE HAVE HAD NO REPORTS OF PROBLEMS
ANYWHERE IN CITY.

2. ONLY SOUR NOTE OCCURRED DURING PARADE ITSELF. PLACARD
CARRIED BY ONE OF LABOR GROUPS READ "EPRP (ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY), CIA AND EDU (ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION)
AS DANGEROUS TO THE REVOLUTION." THERE APPARENTLY WERE OTHER
PLACARDS IN AMHARIC CARRIED BY SAME GROUP BECAUSE ANNOUNCER
FELT CALLED UPON TO TAKE NOTE OF THEM AND SAID IN ENGLISH THAT
ONE (OR MORE) SAID "EPRP IS THE PUPPET OF THE CIA."

3. COMMENT: ANTI-CIA OR AMERICAN PLACARDS HAVE BEEN CARRIED
IN THESE PARADES BEFORE AND NORMALLY BEST COURSE IS TO IGNORE
THEM. UNFORTUNATELY, MORNING ETHIOPIAN HERALD CARRIED STATEMENT
BY PMAC CONDEMNING EPRP AS "AGENT OF SUBVERSION AND COUNTER-
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 10204 140818Z

REVOLUTION".

STATEMENT MADE NO REFERENCE TO CIA. (STATEMENT WILL BE COVERED BY SEPTTEL.) NONETHELESS, WE MAY BE ASKED FOR COMMENT BY MEMBERS OF FOREIGN PRESS IN TOWN FOR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. IF SO, UNLESS DEPT PREFERS OTHERWISE, WE INTEND TO POINT OUT SENTIMENT WAS EXPRESSED BY SMALL GROUP OF MARCHERS IN OTHERWISE LONG LINE OF PARADES, THAT PMAC'S CONDEMNATION OF EPRP MADE NO REFERENCE TO CIA, BUT THAT IN ANY CASE THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO FOUNDATION WHATSOEVER FOR LINKING THE CIA WITH EITHER EPRP OR EDU.

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